

In the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application. Please add new claims 33-41. Claims 1-8, 10-11, 13-22, 24-41 are pending, with claims 1, 11, 17, 25-28, and 32 being the independent claims. Currently amended claims are shown with additions underlined and deletions in ~~strikethrough~~ text. No new matter is added by these amendments.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
 - a body having a first end and a second end, the body configured to resemble an animal;
 - an input aperture defined proximate the first end of the body;
 - an output aperture defined proximate to the second end of the body and spaced apart from the input aperture;
 - a passage disposed in the body and extending from the input aperture to the output aperture;
 - at least one member disposed in the passage, the member being configured to redirect a movement of a solid object;
 - a sensory output generator;
 - ~~a plurality of viewing apertures defined by the body and communicating with the passage; and~~
 - an actuator coupled to the sensory output generator, disposed to detect movement of an object through the passage, and configured to provide an input to the sensory output generator upon detecting movement of the object.
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the input aperture and output aperture are substantially vertically disposed with respect to one another.
3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the at least one member is configured to redirect the movement of the object as it passes through the passage.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the body is configured to resemble apparatus resembles a toy giraffe.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the object is a toy block.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the sensory output is at least one of a visual and an audible output.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the actuator is a compression switch.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the actuator is located substantially at the output aperture and configured to generate a sensory output when the object exits the output aperture.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the actuator is configured to be triggered by engagement by the object.

11. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

receiving a toy bloekan object at an input aperture defined at a first end of a channel, the channel disposed within a body having a base configured to support the body on a surface, the base being disposed within a plane, the body configured to resemble an animal;

displacing the toy bloekobject along the channel;

redirecting the toy bloekobject;

receiving the toy bloekobject at an output aperture defined at a second end of the channel, the output aperture being substantially vertically offset from the input aperture, the output aperture being in a plane substantially orthogonal to the plane in which the base is disposed; and

generating an output via an output generator when the toy bloekobject is received at the output aperture.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the displacing the toy blockobject is caused by a gravitational force.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the generating an output includes generating a sensory output.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the output generator generates the output based on engagement of an actuator by the toy blockobject.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, the actuator being a compression switch, the method further comprising:

depressing the compression switch in response to engagement of the actuator by the toy blockobject.

17. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a guiding structure, the guiding structure having an input and an output, the input spaced from the output, the guiding structure configured to resemble an animal;

an actuator disposed adjacent to the output;

~~a plurality of viewing apertures defined by the guiding structure and configured to permit viewing of an object as it moves from the input to the output~~; and

an output generator coupled to the actuator and configured to generate an output in response to engagement of the actuator by a solid object.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, the guiding structure being configured to guide an object, the apparatus further comprising:

at least one member configured to redirect a path of the object as it is displaced from the input to the output.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the object is a toy block.
20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the output is one of an audible and a visual output.
21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the actuator is configured to be engaged by the object as it passes through the guiding structure to the output.
22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the actuator is a compression switch.
23. (Canceled)
24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the guiding structure resembles a toy giraffe.
25. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
 - a body having a first end and a second end;
 - an input aperture defined proximate the first end of the body;
 - an output aperture defined proximate to the second end of the body and spaced apart from the input aperture;
 - a passage disposed in the body and extending from the input aperture to the output aperture;
 - an outwardly opening door coupled to the body proximate the output aperture, the door configured to selectively retain an object deposited within the passage;
 - at least one member disposed in the passage, the member being configured to redirect a movement of an object ~~a toy block~~;
 - a sensory output generator; and

an actuator coupled to the sensory output generator, disposed to detect movement of an object ~~a toy block~~ through the passage, and configured to provide an input to the sensory output generator upon detecting movement of the object~~toy~~ block.

26. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a body having a first end and a second end, the body resembling an animal;
an input aperture defined proximate the first end of the body;
an output aperture defined proximate to the second end of the body and spaced apart from the input aperture;

a passage disposed in the body and extending from the input aperture to the output aperture;

an outwardly opening door coupled to the body proximate the output aperture, the door configured to selectively retain an object deposited within the passage;

at least one member disposed in the passage, the member being configured to redirect a movement of an object;

a sensory output generator;

a plurality of viewing apertures defined by the body and communicating with the passage, the viewing apertures configured to permit viewing of an object as it moves from the input to the output; and

an actuator coupled to the sensory output generator, disposed to detect movement of an object through the passage, and configured to provide an input to the sensory output generator upon detecting movement of the object.

27. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

receiving an object ~~a toy block~~ at an input aperture defined at a first end of a channel;
displacing the object~~toy~~ block along the channel;
redirecting the object~~toy~~ block;
receiving the object~~toy~~ block at an output aperture defined at a second end of the channel, the output aperture being substantially vertically offset from the input aperture;
outwardly opening a door to selectively retain an object received within the channel; and

generating an output via an output generator when the objecttoy block is received at the output aperture.

28. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a guiding structure, the guiding structure having an input and an output, the input spaced from the output;

an actuator disposed adjacent to the output;

an outwardly opening door coupled to the guiding structure proximate the output, the door configured to selectively retain an object deposited within the guiding structure;

and

an output generator coupled to the actuator and configured to generate an output in response to engagement of the actuator by an objecta toy block.

29. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 28, further comprising:

a plurality of viewing apertures defined by the guiding structure and configured to permit viewing of an object as it moves from the input to the output.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the body includes a base configured to support the body on a surface, the base being disposed within a plane, the output aperture being in a plane substantially orthogonal to the plane in which the base is disposed.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the guiding structure includes a base configured to support the guiding structure on a surface, the base being disposed within a plane, the output aperture being in a plane substantially orthogonal to the plane in which the base is disposed.

32. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a guiding structure, the guiding structure having an input and an output, the input spaced from the output, the guiding structure configured to resemble an animal and being configured to guide a toy block;

an actuator disposed adjacent to the output;
an outwardly opening door coupled to the guiding structure and configured to selectively retain a toy block within the guiding structure;
at least one member configured to redirect a path of the toy block as it is displaced from the input to the output; and
an output generator coupled to the actuator and configured to generate an output in response to engagement of the actuator by a toy block.

33. (New) The Apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
a plurality of viewing apertures defined by the body and communicating with the passage.
34. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
an output door disposed at the second end of the body and configured to selectively retain an object within the passage.
35. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
a stacking platform defined by the body and configured to support at least one object.
36. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the object is a solid object.
37. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the object is a toy block.
38. (New) Theme guiding structure of claim 17, further comprising:
a plurality of viewing apertures defined by the guiding structure and configured to permit viewing of an object as it moves from the input to the output.
39. (New) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising:
an output door disposed at the second end of the guiding structure and configured to selectively retain an object within the guiding structure.

40. (New) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising:
a passage disposed in the guiding structure and extending from the input to the output.
41. (New) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising:
a plurality of viewing apertures defined by the guiding structure and configured to permit viewing of an object as it moves from the input to the output.